**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-18. (cancelled):

19. (currently amended) A lighting element (1, 11, 21, 31) comprising a luminescent surface containing a layer system with a base electrode layer (7, 17, 27, 37) made from an electrically conductive material and directly or indirectly arranged thereon a translucent dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) with a front surface and a back surface facing the base electrode, wherein the dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) contains an arrangement of pores (8 18, 28, 38) extending between the front and back surfaces and the pores (8 18, 28, 38) are open to the front surface, and emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) of an electrically conductive material are arranged within pores, wherein the emitter rods are connected to the base electrode in an electrically conductive manner, and opposite the emitter rods is a ~~translucent~~ counter-electrode layer of an electrically conductive material, and between the emitter rods and the counter-electrode layer is arranged a luminescent material, ~~the layer system further comprises a~~ wherein the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) layer ~~covering~~ covers the pore cavities (8, 18, 28, 38) and is arranged directly or indirectly on the front surface of the dielectric layer, and luminescent material (3, 13, 23, 33) is arranged between the emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) and the ~~layer of~~ counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) layer, and the dielectric layer (5) is a spacer which separates the base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) and the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) , layer wherein the base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) is made

from aluminium or an aluminium alloy and the dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) is an anodized aluminium oxide alloy layer of the base electrode.

20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the luminescent material is arranged as a layer (23) covering the pore cavities (28), directly or indirectly on the front surface of the dielectric layer (25), and the counter-electrode (22) is arranged directly or indirectly on the exposed surface of the luminescent layer (23).

22. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the luminescent material (3, 13) is arranged in the pore cavity (8, 18) between the emitter rods (4, 14) and the pore openings.

23. (currently amended) A lighting element according to claim ~~20~~ 19, wherein the luminescent material is arranged as a layer (3) on the exposed surface of inner walls of the pores to form a central pore cavity.

24. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein a layer of intermediate electrode (40) of a conductive material surrounding the pore openings is arranged directly or indirectly on the dielectric layer (35), and the counter-electrode (32) is arranged over the intermediate electrode (40), wherein between the counter-electrode (32) and the intermediate electrode (40) is arranged at least one luminescent layer (33) covering the pore openings and/or a further dielectric layer.

25. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) is an anodised layer of an aluminium oxide.

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) comprises a layer of a transparent and conducting electrode.

28. (currently amended) A lighting element according to claim 25, wherein the counter-electrode layer is indium tin oxide.

29. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the lighting element is a cold cathode field emission device and the base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) is a base cathode, the emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) are emitter cathodes and the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) is the anode and the luminescent material (3, 13, 23, 33) is stimulated by the electron beams emitted from the emitter rods and the pore cavity (8, 18, 28, 38) is partly or fully evacuated.

30. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the pore cavity (8, 18, 28, 38) contains a plasma-forming inert gas, and the luminescent material (3, 13, 23, 33) is stimulated under gas discharge processes under alternating current conditions.

31. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 28, wherein lighting element operates on basis of electro-luminescence whereby the luminescent substance (3, 13, 23, 33) is stimulated by the application of an electric field.

32. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein one or more translucent protective layers are arranged on the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) wherein the protective layers serve to seal the pores to prevent the exchange of gases to maintain a permanent vacuum.

33. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the lighting element has a matrix addressing of the

base electrode and/or counter-electrode for directing the light emission of individual surface points or surface sections to build a display.

34. (previously presented) A method of making a luminous element according to claim 19 comprising the steps of

a) providing a base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) made of aluminium,

b) providing a porous dielectric anodic aluminium oxide layer (5, 15, 25, 35) by anodising the base electrode,

c) providing wire-like emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) in the pores of the dielectric layer having back ends and front ends, where the front ends of the emitter rods lie below the front surface of the dielectric layer,

d) providing the pores (8, 18, 28, 38) and/or the front surface of the dielectric layer with a layer of luminescent material before or after the deposit of the emitter rods, and

e) providing the front surface of the dielectric layer directly or indirectly with a layer of a counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32).

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the exposed surface of the pore walls is coated with a luminescent material (3).

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the counter-electrode comprises a layer of indium tin oxide and the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) is applied to the dielectric layer in a vacuum coating procedure.

37. (previously presented) A lighting element according to claim 19 comprises one of a flat lighting element on walls and facades of buildings, a background light source for liquid crystal displays (LCD) and a self-illuminating display or sign.